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1944

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Romsey & Stockbridge Rural District Council

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Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Romsey & Stockbridge Rural District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1944.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (Acres)	83,672
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	22,360
Rateable Value	£125,995
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£526.75
Number of Council Houses	426

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate ..	200	178	378	Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 18.8
Illegitimate ..	19	25	44	
Still Births ..	8	8	16	Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)—36
Deaths ..	125	105	230	Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.2
Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth.				From Sepsis 0. From other causes 0.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	45
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	47
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	22
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	33
Deaths from Measles	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2	2

The birth-rate is above the average. The death-rate is low.

Of all causes of death, Heart disease accounted for 62, Cancer 33, Pneumonia 9, Tuberculosis 16, Cerebral haemorrhage 17, Bronchitis 12, Nephritis 4 and Road Accidents 11.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and from Road Accidents are above the average. Deaths from other causes are about average. The average number of deaths from road traffic accidents is about 5, this year there were 11.

Illegitimate births—44, *i.e.*, about one in every nine births is illegitimate. The average number of illegitimate births is about 15 from 1935—1942. In 1943 there were 30.

The improvement in the health of the School and Welfare child has continued and the children are in a better physical condition than they were pre-war, due to the ex ra milk and school dinners.

The children appear to be fairly well clothed considering the difficulties of obtaining suitable clothing but the footwear is not good. Mothers complain of the difficulty they have in getting shoes, of the quality of the shoes and of the poor quality of the leather used in repair work.

In some of the schools the headmasters have noticed that it is difficult to get the children to concentrate on their work and the children seemed disinclined to work. It may be due to defective home supervision or over stimulation by exciting war conditions. One headmaster carried out exhaustive enquiries as to the influence of the wireless. He found that in a great many homes the wireless was left on for hours, the children did not pay much attention to it and had come to look on it as a background. He found that they were apt to treat the lesson as a background unless frequently stimulated.

There is a great demand for the provision of a piped water supply, provided it is brought into the house. A convenient supply being the attraction. The maintenance charges in a scattered rural area will be high.

The disadvantage of bringing additional water into an area without suitable arrangements for sewerage disposal are evident in one parish and it is to be hoped that schemes for sewerage disposal will be considered at the same time.

SECTION B.—General Provision of Health Services.

(1) *Nursing in the Home.*

There is no nursing arrangement or contribution by the Local Authority.

(2) *Laboratory Facilities.*

The County Laboratory.
The Emergency Public Health Laboratory.

(3) *Hospitals.*

(a) Romsey District.
Romsey Emergency.
Broadlands Annexe.

(b) Infections. Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home, they are admitted by arrangement to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital, cases in the Redbridge, Millbrook and Chilworth areas are admitted to the Southampton Isolation Hospital.

(4) *Air Raid Casualty Services.*

These are under the control of a Joint Committee formed of representatives from Romsey Borough and Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council.

Medical Officer in charge Casualty Services : Dr. T. P. Lalonde.

(5) *Scabies Clinic.*

This is held at the Gas Cleansing Station, Love Lane, Romsey. Staff : The Health Visitor, Miss Lane and Mr. and Mrs. Kemp.

All members of the family are treated, those with evidence of scabies get two treatments others one. 209 patients were treated and there were 4 return cases.

SECTION E.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Water Supplies.

1.—(*a*). The quality of the water supplies in the area is generally satisfactory.

(*b*) During the late Summer months there were in some areas acute shortages of water, especially in that part of the Parish of Ampfield which has to rely upon wells for its supply, the District Council met this emergency by fixing a standpipe at the Potters Heron for the use of the parishioners. Another area in the Parish of Sherfield English around Sherfield Church was without water for several weeks when the wells were dry.

2. The District Council has only one piped supply that is in the Parish of Frenchmoor, the water is purchased from the adjoining estate which owns the water works. This estate frequently submits samples for analysis these have been satisfactory. Other parishes in the Southern portion of the District obtain their supply from the Southampton Corporation.

3. There are no areas where the water is liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

4. The only pollution met with was from wells to individual dwellings, and this has been cleared up by cleansing the wells.

5. Approximately one third of the dwellings are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses, there are no standpipes other than one provided for emergency purposes. Approximately one third of the population is provided with a piped supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Millbrook is the only Parish within the Rural District in which there are sewers, these sewers are connected to the Southampton Corporation Sewerage Scheme by arrangement with that Authority, the rest of the houses in that Parish and in the remainder of the Rural District are served by cesspools, septic tanks and earth closets.

Public Cleansing.

The following Parishes have refuse collections: Ampfield, King's Somborne, Houghton, Broughton, Chilworth, Lockerley, East Tytherley, Longstock, Michelmersh, Millbrook, Mottisfont, Nether Wallop, Nursling and Rownhams, Over Wallop, Sherfield English and Stockbridge, these collections are carried out by Contractors, but it is proposed to carry out some of this work by direct labour and by the Council's vehicles during the next year.

HAROLD G. SMITH, Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.—Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There was a slight increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever.

There were two cases of Diphtheria—one had been immunised and had a mild attack.

Diphtheria Immunisation—88 per cent. of the children under school age and 83 per cent. of those of school age have been immunised.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
During the Year 1944.

Disease	Total number notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	29	22	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Whooping Cough	2	1	0
Measles	38	0	0
Pneumonia	11	0	0
Cerebro Spinal	1	1	0
Chicken Pox	8	0	0
Erysipelas	8	2	0

CANCER.

Deaths :—Males 12, Females 21 : Total 33.

The number of deaths is about average.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases notified 18.	Pulmonary ..	Males 15	Females 2
	Non Pulmonary	Males 0	Females 1

This is above the average which is about 7.

Number of deaths 16. This is also above the average which is about 6.

The increase in the number of notifications is probably partly attributable to the medical examinations carried out under the Service Acts and partly to war conditions.

TABLE.

Causes of death in Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District., 1944.

Cause of Death	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	125	105
Pulmonary T.B.	9	5
Other T.B.	1	1
Influenza	0	1
Cancer	12	21
Diabetes	1	1
Intra Cranial	11	6
Heart	36	26
Other Circulatory	4	1
Bronchitis	5	7
Pneumonia	6	3
Ulcer Stomach	3	1
Diarrhoea	2	0
Appendicitis	0	2
Other Digestive	0	2
Nephritis	1	3
Premature Birth	6	2
Congenital and Birth injuries	4	2
Suicide	1	0
Road Accidents	8	3
Other Violent	3	1
All Other	12	17

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. TATE, Medical Officer of Health.